

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image pickup apparatus comprising:

imaging means for forming a video signal of a subject according to a light inputted from a lens device;

an image pickup apparatus body which houses said imaging means and includes a handle, the handle having a long axis and a short axis, the long axis extending in a direction approximately parallel with a light axis direction of a lens system of said lens device and the handle being provided on an upper portion of the image pickup apparatus body; and

a first display device to display a video picture according to said video signal, said first display device provided on a front portion, in said light axis direction, of said handle such that a posture of the first display device can be changed, wherein

said first display device is coupled to said handle freely rotatably by a rotational axis being extended in a parallel direction, an orthogonal direction or a direction inclined by an appropriate angle with respect to said light axis direction;

said first display device performs a turning operation and a reversing operation to an axis center line direction and to an orthogonal direction of said rotational axis; and

a display surface of the first display device or a non-display surface on an opposite side of said display surface is arranged on said handle selectively.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): An image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first display device includes a flat planar monitor and a turning support mechanism to support said planar monitor on said image pickup apparatus body freely rotatably and said planar monitor is turnable by up to approximately 180 degrees by a turn of said turning support mechanism.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): An image pickup apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said planar monitor performs a reversing operation by the turn of said turning support mechanism, either of a display surface of the planar monitor and a non-display surface of an opposite side of the planar monitor is selectively arranged in a housing position of said planar monitor, said planar monitor includes a flat housing, a first main face of said flat housing is provided with the display surface of said planar monitor, and a second main face which is on the opposite side of said first main face is the non-display surface.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): An image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a display surface of said first display device is provided such that a front portion of the display surface, in said light axis direction, is heightened and declines rearward, in said light axis direction.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): An image pickup apparatus according to claim [[5]] 1, wherein an operation button to operate said imaging means is arranged at a position of said handle covered by said first display device.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An image pickup apparatus according to claim [[5]] 1, wherein an operation button to operate said imaging means is arranged in a vicinity of a position on which said first display device of said handle is arranged and rearward of the first display device in said light axis direction.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): An image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a second display device is provided rearward said handle of said image pickup apparatus body in said light axis direction and approximately on a same axis as said handle and said second display device includes a viewfinder.

Claim 9 (Original): An image pickup apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said viewfinder is arranged freely rotatably to an upper direction by a rotational axis provided on said handle.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): An image pickup apparatus according to claim 8, wherein a light axis of said viewfinder and a light axis of said lens system of said image pickup apparatus body are arranged by a predetermined distance and said viewfinder is arranged in an upper portion apart from said image pickup apparatus body.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): An image pickup apparatus according to claim 10, wherein a concave space is provided between an upper portion of a battery housing portion provided on a back face of said image pickup apparatus body and said image pickup apparatus body and the battery is detachable from the image pickup apparatus body by being unlocked.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): An image pickup apparatus ~~according to claim 1,~~  
comprising:

imaging means for forming a video signal of a subject according to a light inputted  
from a lens device;

an image pickup apparatus body which houses said imaging means and includes a handle, the handle having a long axis and a short axis, the long axis extending in a direction approximately parallel with a light axis direction of a lens system of said lens device and the handle being provided on an upper portion of the image pickup apparatus body;

a first display device to display a video picture according to said video signal, said first display device provided on a front portion, in said light axis direction, of said handle such that a posture of the first display device can be changed; and

~~wherein~~ a shoulder attachment ~~which~~ is mounted on said image pickup apparatus body detachably, ~~is provided and~~ said shoulder attachment ~~includes~~ including a shoulder attaching portion supported such that it can be approaching/departing with respect to a back face of said image pickup apparatus body.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): An image pickup apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said shoulder attaching portion includes a supporting arm supported elastically with respect to the back face of said image pickup apparatus body and a supporting piece supported freely rotatable at a tip of said supporting arm.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): An image pickup apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said supporting piece has approximately a same size with the back face of said image pickup apparatus body and is constituted to cover the back face of said image pickup apparatus body when said supporting arm is approached to the image pickup apparatus body by being shortened.

Claim 15 (Original): An image pickup apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said supporting piece is provided with a through-hole for avoiding a contact with the battery mounted on the back face of said image pickup apparatus body.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): An image pickup apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said shoulder attachment includes a shoulder attachment body fixed on said image pickup apparatus body detachably and said shoulder attachment body is provided with a positioning portion for positioning a bottom portion of the image pickup apparatus body and a supporting arm housing portion which houses said supporting arm such that said supporting arm can be taken in and out with respect to the supporting arm housing.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): An image pickup apparatus comprising:

imaging means for forming a video signal of a subject according to a light inputted from a lens device;

an image pickup apparatus body which houses said imaging means and includes a handle, the handle having a long axis and a short axis, the long axis extending in a direction approximately parallel with a light axis direction of a lens system of said lens device and the handle being provided on an upper portion of the image pickup apparatus body; and

a first display device and a second display device to display a video picture according to said video signal, said first display device provided on a front portion, in said light axis direction, of said handle such that a posture of the first display device can be changed, and said second display device provided on a rear portion, in said light axis direction, of said handle such that a posture of the second display device can be changed, wherein

said first display device is a planar monitor housed in a flat monitor case having a display surface on one face, is made to be freely rotatable in a direction orthogonal to said

light axis by centering around one side of said planar monitor and is made to be freely rotatable by centering around an axis perpendicular to said light axis direction and also approximately horizontal with said light axis in a state of turning in said orthogonal direction.

Claim 18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): An image pickup apparatus according to claim [[18]] 17, wherein said first display device is arranged such that when said planar monitor is turned to an opposite side and returned to a housing position of the planar monitor so as to be folded, the display surface of said planar monitor faces upward.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): An image pickup apparatus according to claim 17, wherein on the rear portion of said handle, the second display device is provided approximately on a same axis as said handle and said second display device includes a viewfinder.

Claim 21 (New): An image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a shoulder attachment mounted on said image pickup apparatus body detachably, said shoulder attachment including a shoulder attaching portion supported such that it can be approaching/departing with respect to a back face of said image pickup apparatus body.

Claim 22 (New): An image pickup apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising:

a shoulder attachment mounted on said image pickup apparatus body detachably, said shoulder attachment including a shoulder attaching portion supported such that it can be approaching/departing with respect to a back face of said image pickup apparatus body.